

JOANNE (GENOVA) SUJANSKY



Outstanding Achievement in Business & Leadership

Dr. Joanne Genova Sujansky was born to John and Mary Ellen Genova in Freedom in 1950. She attended Freedom Area High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and the marching band. She graduated from high school in 1968 and attended Slippery Rock University where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in education. She completed her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh.

After completing her degrees at Slippery Rock, Sujansky was appointed to management and director-level positions within the human resources departments of Presbyterian University Hospital and Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh. In 1980 she started her own consulting practice, which expanded quickly in size and scope. Today KEY Group™ serves Fortune 500 and non-profit organizations around the world.

A popular and much-in-demand speaker, Sujansky traveled the globe extensively delivering keynote addresses to audiences in more than 30 countries. She was well known for the infectious energy of her speeches and her ability to instill her audiences with enthusiasm and appreciation. Sujansky is estimated to have spoken to more than

a hundred thousand people over the course of her career. She was a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), the highest earned designation of the National Speakers Association, recognizing a commitment to ongoing education, proven speaking experience, and ethical behavior. NSA only awards the designation to individuals who have completed a comprehensive set of criteria.

Sujansky was also a dedicated member of the American Society of Training and Development. After serving as president of the local Pittsburgh Chapter and ASTD Region 3, she was elected to the national presidency of ASTD in 1985, becoming the youngest president ever elected to serve that 31,000-member world-wide professional organization. In 1988 Joanne Sujansky received the Gordon M. Bliss Award, the highest honor bestowed by ASTD for service to the profession.

She has authored or co-authored more than fourteen books on leadership and change, including *the Power of Partnering*, *The Keys to Conquering Change*, and *Training Games for Managing Change*. As a passionate promoter of Pittsburgh, she wrote and published the book *Pittsburgh Will Steel Your Heart* in 2007, later selected as an official publication of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary celebration. Her most recent book, *Keeping the Millennials* with co-author Dr. Jan Ferri-Reed, was released by publisher John Wiley and Sons this past spring.

Long considered an expert resource in several areas, Sujansky was regularly called upon by publications such as TIME, Selling Power, USA Today, Investors Business Daily, New York Times, Industry Week and Forbes to provide guidance on leadership practices and productive workplace cultures. In addition she has made numerous guest appearances on radio and television programs, including "Pittsburgh Today" and "Our Region's Business."

Sujansky passed away on December 10, 2009 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband Chuck and her three children, Cara Olshanski, Justin and Jenna; and two grandchildren, Luciana and Sofia.

Knowing that we can make a difference in this world is a great motivator.

~Susan Jeffers